

THE NEW CONGRESSIONAL LIBRARY

BY KATE B. SHERWOOD.

PART IV.

READING-ROOM AND BOOK COLLECTIONS.

Unique Book-stacks and Carrying Apparatus. Connections with the Capitol—Decorations of the Dome—Library Soon to be in Operation.

The reading-room in the rotunda, beneath the dome, is very beautiful. The floor is of mosaic, with concentric bands of Tennessee marble. There is a circular distributing desk in the center, and around these three circles of reading-desks, the interior is being varied with reading-tables and settees. The alcoves are also seated, the entire woodwork being of dark, rich mahogany, polished like a piano.

A circular counter for attendants to distribute and receive books surrounds the distributing desk. The panning and carving of the whole is particularly fine.

An elevator connected with the basement conveys books up or down by the truck ladder. There is also a cabinet which is the terminus of a book-carrying apparatus, connecting the reading-room with the book-stacks, and a long row of pneumatic tubes that transmit written applications for books from all parts of the building, or verbal messages through speaking-tubes. One of these tubes is connected with the Librarian's room in the building and others with the United States Capitol.

The book-carrying apparatus is an ingenious invention of American mechanics and consists of endless chains which are continuously in motion, at the rate of about 100 feet a minute, operated by an electro dynamo. The cable carries trays which receive and distribute the books.

It is believed that when in practical operation a book may be ordered from the Capitol through the pneumatic tube and furnished by the book-carrying apparatus in the course of six or seven minutes. As books are constantly in demand by Representatives and Senators for use in debate and in the committee rooms, and as the distance between the Capitol and Library of Congress is about a quarter of a mile, it will be readily perceived that a vast outlay of time and money, in the aggregate, will be saved by these ingenious mechanical contrivances.

It takes but three minutes for books to travel from the Library to the Capitol after they have been placed in the pneumatic tube. Telephone wires connect both Houses of Congress with the distributing desk.

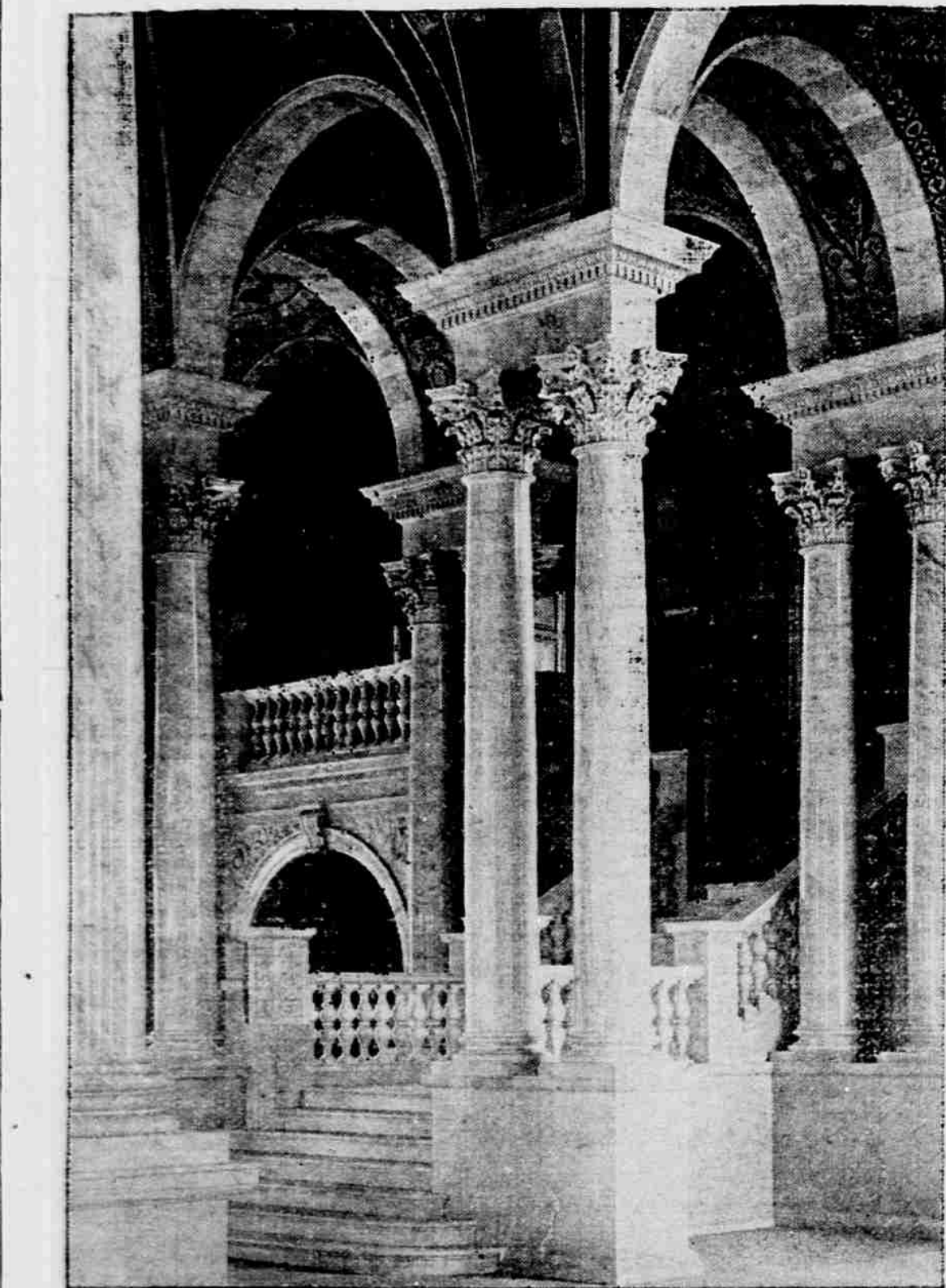
THE GREAT DOME.

The arrangement and construction of the book-stacks is entirely original and unique. They are divided into nine tiers, each seven feet high, an arrangement by which every book may be handled and its title page read without any possible delay on the part of the attendant. The stacks begin at the basement, which is 14 feet below the level of the rotunda, and run up to the height of 63 feet. The entrances are from the rotunda galleries and from the corridors of the surrounding structure.

The dome is a perfect example of beautiful Italian stucco work. It is filled with terra cotta. The scheme of the surface is a system of squares, the ornamentation of the body being in arabesque, which is the Arabian system of ornamentation, consisting of a fanciful mixture of men and animals, plants and flowers, ideal and real. The arabesque figures of the dome are chiefly little cupids, standing and seated, surrounded by conventional designs. The squares diminish in size as the dome rises, there being 320 of them in all. The groundwork is of blue in every variety of shades, increasing in brightness as the dome rises, suggesting Athens, the mother of Philosophy.

The animal figures combine upwards of 50 types in interior decorations, including dolphins, lions' heads, sea-horses, griffins, storks, eagles, tridents, urns, and so on. On the ceiling of the lantern floats a beautiful female figure representing Human Understanding; a cherub on one side holds the book of wisdom and knowledge, and on the other is pointing with uplifted hand to a circle of sunbeams figures representing the Finite Intellect.

On this circle, or collar, of which Human Understanding is the central figure, are 12 seated figures, male and female, of colossal size, representing the 12 countries which have contributed most to the world in the grand process of the evolution of civilization, which is the underlying theme of the decorations. A tablet decorated with palms be-



MEZZANINE STAIRS, TO ROTUNDA GALLERY FROM MAIN HALL.

side each figure bears the name of the country typified, and on a steamer beneath is the name of the great seal of Mena, the first Egyptian king on record. Judea represents Religion, and is a woman with hands raised in an ecstasy of prayer, wearing a jeweled breast-plate, on which are engraved the names of the 12 tribes of Israel. Greece, typical of Philosophy, sits with a scroll in her lap, a bronze lamp beside her, and a crown on her head, suggesting Athens, the mother of Philosophy.

Rome, representing Administration, is the figure of a Roman Centurion clad in full armor, holding in his right hand the scepter, will recall what the little three-sailed vessels are like. England is typified by a woman of the Elizabethan period with high ruff and full sleeves. She is crowned with laurel, and holds in her lap a book of Shakspeare's plays and represents Literature, of which Shakspeare is the crown.

France stands for Emancipation, and is represented by a woman typical of the First Republic. She sits on a cannon and carries a drum, bugle and sword. In her left hand she extends a scroll bearing the words, "Les Droits de l'Homme" (the Rights of Man), which was the declaration of the French Assembly of 1789.

The 12th and last figure is America, representing Science. It is the figure of an engineer in the garb of the workman of the machine-shop, poring over a problem of mechanics. In front of him is an electro dynamo, suggestive of the prominence of the United States in electrical invention.

THE PAVILIONS.

There is a Pavilion of the Elements; male figures representing earth and fire, and female figures representing air and water. These are surrounded by allegorical and mythological figures and children innumerable.

The Pavilion of the Seas has gilded walls, ornamented with laurel bands, with the great seal of the United States in the domed ceiling, and the seals of the Executive Departments of the United States running around the walls. Numerous patriotic inscriptions are upon the tables, such as "Thank God, I also am an American," by Daniel Webster, and "Let us have peace," by U. S. Grant.

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end with a striking composition illustrative of War and at the other of Peace. They are by Gari Melchers, and notable alike for their strength of composition and power of suggestion.

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The grand pavilions, which, as has been said, form the corners and entrance halls of the Library, are connected by long galleries, the rooms of the second story being chiefly designed for the exhibition of works of art and books and manuscripts of rare or exceptional interest. The room will be filled with a collection of the earliest printed books, illustrative of the development of the printer's art; another to books devoted to the early history of America. The north gallery will be devoted to a display of maps, and the south to a display of engravings, lithographs, etchings, photographs, and so on, showing the development of illustrative art. The decorations are of great variety; the side walls in rich, plain colors with deep friezes, displaying effective decorative designs.

In one of the lower galleries Kenyon Cox, son of Maj.-Gen. J. D. Cox, ex-Governor of Ohio, has two beautiful groups, the one on the north side representative of The Arts, and the one on the south side of The Sciences. The space covered by the artist with each composition is 34 feet in length and nine and a half in height. The elegant and beautiful figures, with their classic drapery and exquisite coloring, are expressive of the highest art.

In the Arts, Poetry is the central figure, represented by a laurel-crowned Muse bearing an antique lyre; her eyes are lifted upward, as if to catch heavenly inspiration and her lips are parted in song. Architecture and Music, Sculpture and Painting, are grouped on either side of her.

Astronomy is the central figure of the Sciences. She holds a pair of compasses to measure the world, held up by a genius in front of her. Physics and Mathematics are grouped on either side.

Over the doors and windows of this gallery are the names distinguished in art and science, as Wagner, Mozart, Homer, Milton, Raphael, Rembrandt, Vitruvius, Mansard, Phidias and Michael Angelo in art, and Leibnitz, Galileo, Aristotle, Ptolemy, Dalton, Hipparchus, Herschel, Kepler, La Mark and Helmholtz in science.

In every gallery are innumerable names of the great men of all ages. In the Print Room are the signers of the Declaration of Independence; in the southeast gallery, the inventors; in the northeast gallery, the architects and engineers; in the map gallery, a miscellaneous list, including physicians, theologians, jurists, scientists, sculptors, painters and musicians.

There is a Pavilion of Discoveries, the central groups symbolic of the seasons, the same theme running through two other pavilions. There are also figures symbolic of Courage, Valor, Fortitude and Achievement; armed figures ready for combat on land and sea are manifold. Adventure is in the 16th century garb, and there is the old Viking with his battleaxe, the pirate and the buccaner.

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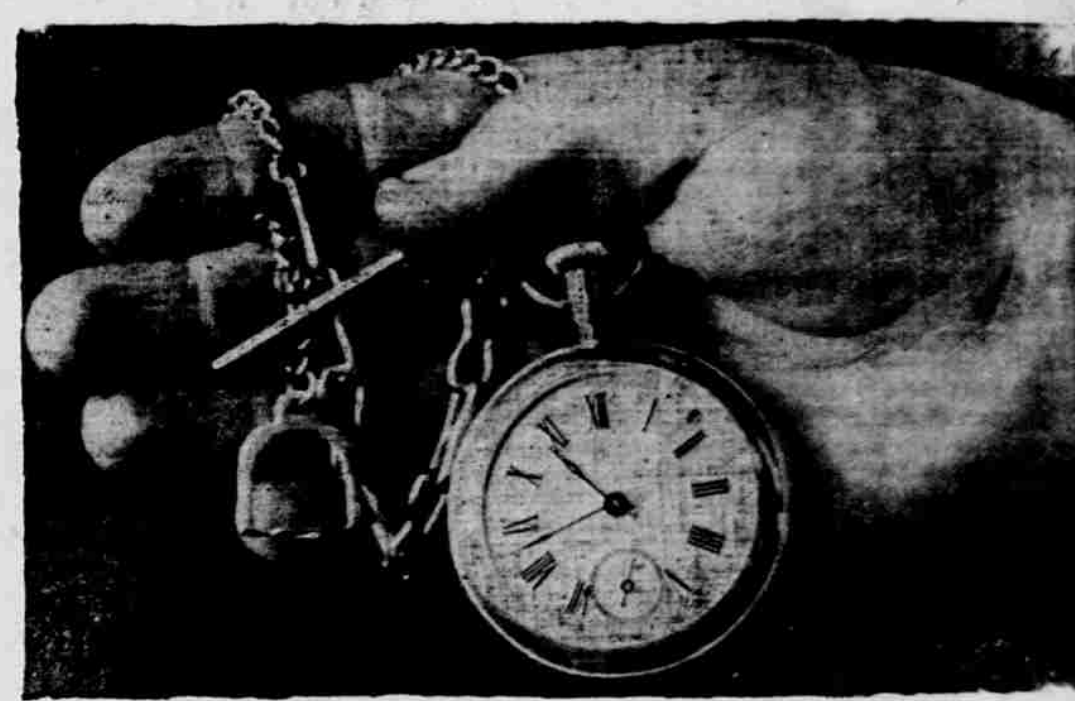
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Such an Easy Way of Getting A Good Watch and Chain!

See "Club-Raising Made Easy" Below.



What It is and What is Said of It.

One of the most serviceable watches ever made, a stem-winder and stem-setter. The case is solid nickel. THIS IS NO TOY, but an ordinary modern watch which will last for years, and one which any person may be proud to carry. It is guaranteed by the manufacturer and by us. A watch like this a generation ago would have cost \$20, but the fact is it contains appliances unknown at that time.

In addition to the watch we send in every instance a handsome chain, so that the outfit is ready to put on and wear as soon as received.

HOW TO GET IT.

We do not sell this watch without the paper, and no one can secure one of these splendid timepieces by itself. We will send this watch by mail to any person who will send us a club of only

THREE YEARLY SUBSCRIBERS.

Understand that you pay nothing for the watch, but send us three names and addresses of subscribers to THE NATIONAL TRIBUNE with \$1 for each subscriber, who will receive the paper for one year, and we will send you the watch and chain, postpaid, to your address absolutely free of charge.

If unwilling to spare even the little time required to get up the club, we will send the watch and chain with THE NATIONAL TRIBUNE for one year to any address for \$2.

No one, therefore, need be without a watch equal for keeping time to any in the neighborhood. It will not take a day for anyone to get up this small club of only three subscribers at \$1 each for the best family newspaper in the United States. See "Club-Raising Made Easy" in another column on this page.

Address: THE NATIONAL TRIBUNE, Washington, D. C.

CLUB-RAISING MADE EASY.

DEAR COMRADES:

Each old or present subscriber who gets us one or more new subscribers during the month of August will receive (if he requests them), postpaid, two books, "The Cannoneer" and "Capturing a Locomotive." The new subscribers will also receive them, and the promise of these two great books makes it an easy matter to get their subscriptions.

We know how highly you esteem THE NATIONAL TRIBUNE and how you work for it, keeping it ahead of most all other weekly papers in point of circulation. We know, too, how surprised some of you are, at times, when you are getting up clubs, to run across some people who do not fully appreciate THE TRIBUNE—who, indeed, are inclined to dispute your statement that it is the best paper published on the face of the earth. Well, there are such people. But let us tell you this: If you once get them to take the paper, they soon come around to your opinion and subscribe year after year with great regularity.

Now this situation suggests a question: Why not offer subscribers such big inducements that the club-raiser will succeed with every person solicited?

With this end in view we have made the offer you will see elsewhere on this page of giving two large books, "The Cannoneer" and "Capturing a Locomotive," to everyone who subscribes during the month of August.

We intend, also, to send these two books with every premium sent to a club-raiser. That is, in addition to the premium he works for and earns, whether it be large or small, we will send these two books as a present. We never forget old friends when cutting a watermelon.

Surely this makes club-raising easy. All you have to do with persons solicited to subscribe is to show them the paper and its attractions, describe the free books (or let them read about them in the paper), and take their dollars. Remit the dollars, with their full addresses, to us, and we will do the rest: that is, we will send to each address the two books at once and the paper for a year, and to you we will send the books also, and the premiums, all postpaid.

All comrades who are at present working for clubs may offer these two books to each subscriber. This enables them to promptly complete the clubs they are working for, however large.

Comrades, just try for clubs now. You will surely succeed.

FIRST-CLASS Bicycles As Premiums.

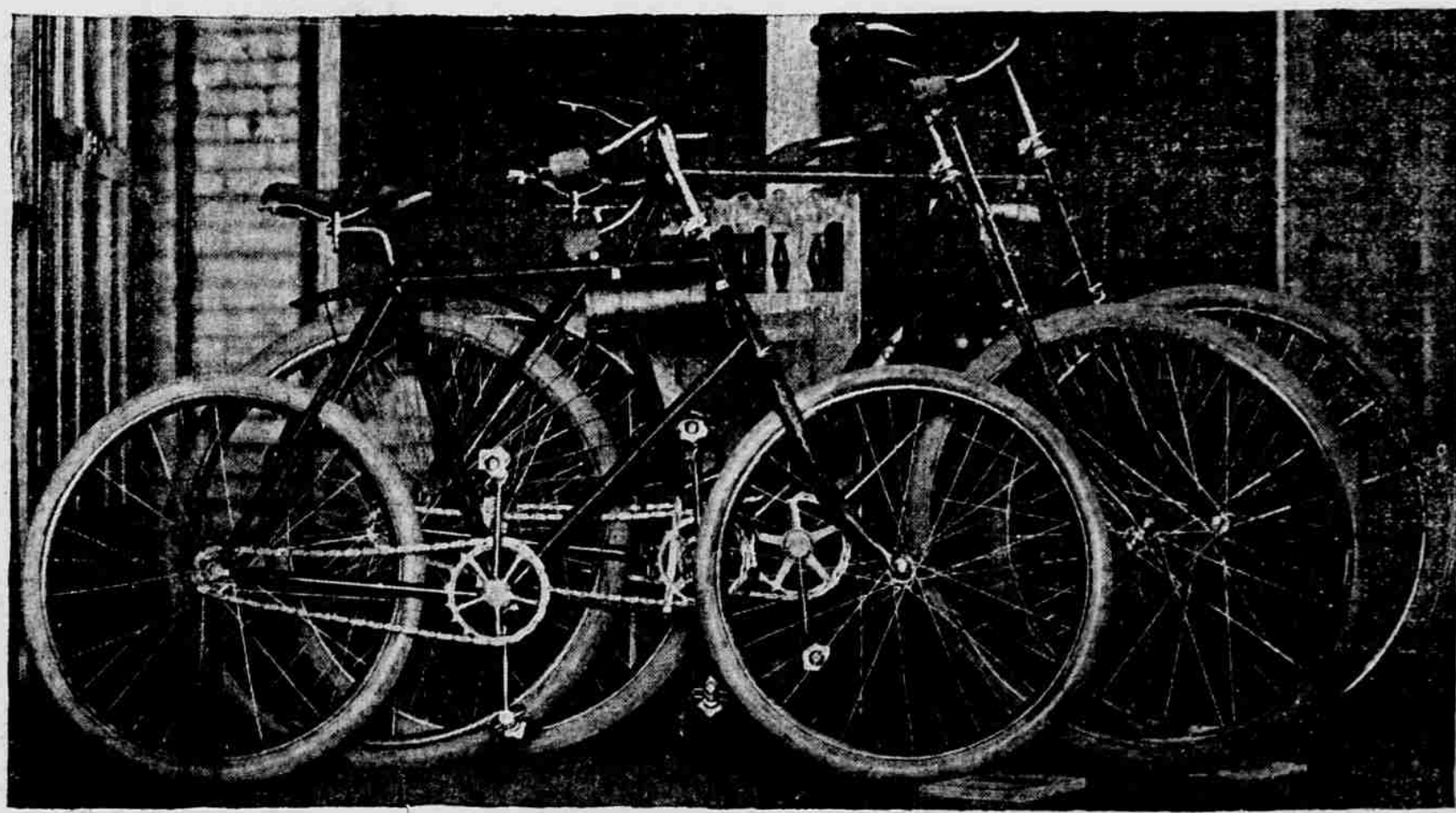
We have at last secured a few first-class Bicycles for our Club-Raisers. Over 1,000 of these wheels were sold in Washington last year. They have given perfect satisfaction. Our friends ride them constantly. We know all about them. They are \$55 wheels, and well worth the money.

BY AN ADVANTAGEOUS TRADE WE ARE ABLE TO OFFER

The Gentlemen's Wheel The Ladies' Wheel
FOR 50 YEARLY SUBSCRIBERS. FOR 55 YEARLY SUBSCRIBERS.
The Boy's Wheel for 40 Yearly Subscribers.

Shipped by freight, securely crated.

Read "Club-Raising Made Easy" in next column. Our Great August Offer does the business. Clubs of 50 have been raised in three days recently. Get to work at once and let us know you want one.



PHOTOGRAPH (ABOVE) AND DESCRIPTION (BELOW) OF THESE BICYCLES.

THE BOY'S AND MAN'S WHEEL.
DIAMOND FRAME of best steel tube, 1 1/2 in. diameter; 22 1/2 and 26 in. frames. 1 1/2 in. head tube. 3/4 and 1 in. rear braces and forks. 28 in. wheels. Barrel hubs. Rough-tread, Para or America's Special tire. Swaged tangent spokes with bronze nipples. 1 in. hardened chain. Our special crank hanger bearings. Forged round cranks of special quality steel. Crank axles and cones turned from steel with per cent. of carbon just right, properly hardened. Ball cups or races of hardened steel, polished. Sprockets, both front and rear, of steel, milled and turned to fit chain. Tread, 5 inches. Rat-trap pedals. Handle bar of best steel tubing with cork grips. Teat post. Special Sager saddle. Best baked black enamel with delicate gold stripes. All nickeling done over copper. Guard with lacing to wheel and special chain guard. Tool bag with proper equipment. (Boy's wheel same as above, except frame is 21 inches and wheels 24 inches.)

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